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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

MASATAKA AOKI ET AL.

Serial No.:

09/942,842

Group Art Unit: 3641

Filed:

AUGUST 31, 2001

Examiner: R. PALABRICA

Title:

Sir:

METHOD OF TREATING LARGE SCALE STRUCTURAL

BODY

AFTER-FINAL REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 EXPEDITED HANDLING REQUESTED

Box AF Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 RECEIVED

DEC 2 7 2002

PATENT

GROUP 3600

The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed on or about September 23, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 4-12.

(A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment.)

Amend Claims 1-3 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A method for handling a nuclear reactor pressure vessel, comprising providing a protective measure for a used fuel pool in a nuclear reactor well, said protective measure having a penetrating path therein and carrying out or in said nuclear reactor pressure vessel through said

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